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# LETTER

## **TO THE**

# Reverend Mr. Douglas.

## OCCASIONED

# By His Vindication of MILTON.

## To which are subjoin'd

Several curious original LETTERS from the Authors  
of the UNIVERSAL HISTORY, Mr. AINSWORTH,  
Mr. MACLAURIN, &c.

**BY WILLIAM KIRKMAN**

#### Quando nasceram

*Corpora magnitudia fatis tis premitur, et  
Fugna suum facit, quum uicem uicem.*

Prætuli Clementia  
juriſ Rigor.

11

## Grotius Adversus Erift.

# LONG ASON

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MDCCL.

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Revolutionary War Document

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Edited by John T. S. Williams

Introduction by Alexander L. King

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TO THE

## Reverend Mr. Douglas.

SIR,

**C**andour and Tenderness are in any Relation, and on all Occasions, eminently amiable ; but when they are found in an Adversary, and found so prevalent as to over-power that Zeal which his Cause excites, and that Heat which naturally increases in the Prosecution of Argument, and which may be in a great Measure justify'd by the Love of Truth, they certainly appear with particular Advantages ; and it is impossible not to envy those who possess the Friendship of him, whom it is even some Degree of good Fortune to have known as an Enemy.

I will not so far dissemble my Weakness, or my Fault, as not to confess that my Wish was to have passed undetected ; but since it has been my Fortune to fail in my original Design, to have the supposititious Passages which I have inserted in my Quotations made known to the World, and the Shade which began to gather on the Splendour of *Milton* totally dispersed, I cannot but count it an Alleviation of my Pain, that I have been defeated by a Man who knows how to use Advantages with so much Moderation, and can enjoy the Honour of Conquest without the Insolence of Triumph.

It was one of the Maxims of the *Spartans*, not to press upon a flying Army, and therefore their Enemies were always ready to quit the Field, because they knew the Danger was only in opposing. The Civility with which you have thought proper to treat me, when you had incontestable Superiority, has inclined

me to make your Victory complete, without any further Struggle, and not only publickly to acknowledge the Truth of the Charge which you have hitherto advanced, but to confess, without the least Dissimulation, Subterfuge, or Concealment, every other Interpolation I have made in those Authors, which you have not yet had Opportunity to examine.

On the Sincerity and Punctuality of this Confession, I am willing to depend for all the future Regard of Mankind, and cannot but indulge some Hopes, that they whom my Offence has alienated from me, may, by this Instance of Ingenuity and Repentance, be propitiated and reconciled. Whatever be the Event, I shall at least have done all that can be done in Reparation of my former Injuries to *Milton*, to Truth, and to Mankind, and entreat that those who shall continue implacable, will examine their own Hearts whether they have not committed equal Crimes without equal Proofs of Sorrow, or equal Acts of Atonement\*.

### PASSAGES interpolated in MASENIUS.

The Word *Pandæmonium* in the marginal Notes of Book I. Essay Page 10.

### CITATION VI. Essay, Page 38.

Adnuit ipsa Dolo, malumque (heu ! longa dolendi  
Materies ! & triste nefas !) vesana momordit  
Tanti ignara mali. Mora nulla, solutus Avernus.  
Exspuit infandas acies ; fractumque remugit  
Divulsa compage solum : Nabathæa receptum.  
Regna dedere sonum, Pharioque in littore Nereus  
Territus erubuit : Simul adgemuere dolentes  
Hesperiæ valles, Libyæque talentis arenæ  
Exarsere procul. Stupefacta Lycaonis ursa  
Constituit, & pavido riguit glacialis in axe :  
Omnis cardinibus submotus inhorruit orbis ;  
Angeli hoc efficiunt, cœlestia jussa secuti.

\* The Interpolations are distinguished by Italick Characters.

CITATION

## CITATION VII. Essay, Page 41.

Illa quidem fugiens, sparsis per terga capillis,  
 Ora rigat lacrimis, & cœlum questibus implet :  
 Talia voce rogans. Magni Deus arbiter orbis !  
 Qui rerum momenta tēnes, solusque futuri  
 Præscius, elapsique memor ; quem terra potentem  
 Imperio, cœlique tremunt ; quem Dite superbus  
 Horfescit Phlegethon, pavidoque furore veretur :  
 En ! Styge crudeli premimur. Laxantur hiatus  
 Tartarei, dirusque solo dominatur Avernus,  
*Infernique canes populantur cuncta creata,*  
 Et manes violent superos : discrimina rerum  
 Sustulit Antitheus, Divumque oppressit honorem.  
 Respice Sarcotheam : nimis, heu ! decepta momordit  
 Infaustas epulas, nosque omnes prodiit hosti.

## CITATION VIII. Essay, Page 42, the whole Passage.

*Quadrupedi pugnat quadrupes, volucrīque volucris ;*  
*Et pisces cum pisce ferox hostilibus armis*  
*Prælia sæva gerit : jam pristina pabula spernunt,*  
*Jam tondere piget viridantes gramine campos :*  
*Alterum & alterius vivunt animalia letbo :*  
*Prisca nec in gentem humanam reverentia durat ;*  
*Sed fugiant, vel si steterant fera bella minantur*  
*Fronte truci, torvosque oculos jaculantur in illam.*

## CITATION IX. Essay, Page 43.

*Vatibus antiquis numerantur lumine cassis,*  
*Tiresias, Phineus, Thamyrisque, & magnus Homerus.*

The above Passage stands thus in *Masenius*, in one Line.

Tiresias cœcus, Thamyrisque, & Daphnis, Homerus.

N. B.

N. B. The Verse now cited is in *Masenius's Poems*, but not in the *Sarcotis*.

CITATION X. Essay, Page 46.

In medio, turmas inter proiectus ovantes  
Cernitur Antitheus, reliquis hic altior unus  
Eminet, & circum vulgus despectat inane :  
Frons nebulis obscura latet, torvumque furorem  
Dissimulat, fidæ tectus velamine noctis :  
*Per similis turri præcelsæ, aut montibus altis*  
*Antiquæ cedro, nudata frondis honore.*

Passages interpolated in *Grotius*.

CITATION I. Essay, Page 55.

Sacri Tonantis hostia, exful patriæ  
Cœlestis, adsum ; Tartari tristem specum  
Fugiens, & atram noctis æternæ plagam.  
Hac spe, quod unum maximum fugio malum,  
Superos videobo. Fallor ? an certe meo  
Concussa Tellus tota trepidat pondere ?  
Quid dico ? Tellus ? Orcus & pedibus tremit.

CITATION II. Essay, Page 58. the whole Passage.

*Nam, me judice,*  
*Regnare dignum est ambitu, eti in Tartaro :*  
*Alto præesse Tartaro siquidem juvat,*  
*Cælis quam in ipsis servi obire munis.*

CITATION IV. Essay, Page 51, the whole Passage.

*Innominata quæque nominibus suis,*  
*Liber vocare propriis vocabulis.*

CITATION

## CITATION V. Essay, Page 63.

Terrestris orbis rector ! & princeps freti !  
*Cœli solique soboles ! ætherium genus !*  
 Adame ! dextram liceat amplecti tuam !

CITATION VI. Essay, *ibid.*

Quod illud animal, tramite obliquo means,  
 Ad me volutum flexili serpit via ?  
 Sibila retorquet ora setosum caput  
 Trifidamque linguam vibrat : oculi ardent duo,  
 Carbuncolorum luce certantes rubra.

## CITATION VII. Essay, Page 65. the whole Passage.

— — — — *Nata Deo ! atque homine sata !*  
*Regina mundi ! eademque interitus inscia !*  
*Cunctis colenda !* — — — —

## CITATION VIII. Essay, Page 66. the whole Passage.

Rationis etenim omnino paritas exigit,  
 Ego bruta quando bestia evagi loquens ;  
 Ex homine, qualis ante, te fieri Deam.

CITATION IX. Essay, *ibid.*

Per sancta thalami sacra, per jus nominis  
 Quodcumque nostri : five me natam vocas,  
 Ex te creatam ; five communi patre  
 Ortam, Sororem ; five potius conjugem :  
*Cassam, oro, dulci luminis jubare tui*  
 Ne me relinquas : nunc tuo auxilio est opus,  
 Cum versa sors est. Unicum lapsæ mihi  
 Firmamen, unam spem gravi adflictæ malo,  
 Te mihi resérva, dum licet: Mortalium.

( 8 )

Ne tota soboles pereat unius necc :  
Tibi nam relitta, quò petam ? aut evum exigam ?

CITATION X. Essay, Page 67. the whole Passage.

Tu namque soli numini contrarius,  
Minus es nocivus ; ast ego nocentior,  
( Adeoque misera magis, quippe misericie comes  
Origoque scelus est, lurida mater mali ! )  
Deumque leſi scelere, teque, Vir ! simul

CITATION XI. Essay, Page 68. the whole Passage.

Quod comedo, poto, gigno, diris subjacet.

Interpolation in Ramsay.

CITATION VI. Essay, Page 88.

O Judex ! nova me facies inopinaque terret ;  
Me maculæ turpes, nudæque in corpore sordes,  
Et cruciant duris exercita pectora poenis :  
Me ferus horror agit. Mihi non vernantia prata,  
Non vitrei fontes, cœli non aurea templa,  
Nec sunt grata mihi sub utroque jacentia sole :  
Judicis ora Dei sic terrent, lacinat ægrum  
Sic pectus mihi noxa. O si mi abrumpere vitam,  
Et detur poenam quovis evadere letho !  
Ipsa parens utinam mihi Tellus imâ dehiscat !  
Ad piceas trudarque umbras, atque infera regna !  
Pallentes umbras Erebi, noctemque profundam !  
Montibus aut premari injectis, cœlique ruinâ !  
Ante tuos vultus, tua quam flammantiaque ora  
Suspiciam, caput objectem & cœlestibus armis !

Inter-

Interpolations in *Staphorstius.*

## CITATION III. Essay, P. 104.

Fœdus in humanis fragili quod sanctius ævo !  
 Firmius & melius, quod magnificentius, ac quam  
 Conjugii, sponsi sponsæque jugalia sacra !  
*Auspice te, fugiens alieni subcuba lecti,*  
*Dira libido hominum tota de gente repulsa est :*  
*Ac tantum gregibus pecudum ratione carentum*  
*Imperat, & sine lege tori furibunda vagatur.*  
*Auspice te, quam jura probant, rectumque, piumque,*  
*Filius atque pater, fraterque innotuit ; & quot*  
*Vincula vicini sociarunt sanguinis, a te*  
*Nominibus didicere suam distinguere gentem.*

## CITATION VI. Essay, P. 109.

Cœlestes animæ ! sublimia templa tenentes,  
 Laudibus adcumulate Deum super omnia magnum ! —  
 Tu quoque nunc animi vis tota ac maxima nostri !  
 Tota tui in Domini grates dissolvere laudes !  
*Aurorâ redeunte novâ, redeuntibus umbris.*  
 Immensum ! augustum ! verum ! inscrutabile Numen !  
 Summe Deus ! fobolesque Dei ! consorsque duorum,  
 Spiritus ! æternas retines, bone rector ! habenas,  
 Per mare, per terras, cœlosque, atque unus Jhova  
 Existens, celebrabo tuas, memorique sonabo  
 Organico plectro laudes. Te pectore amabo,  
*Te primum, & medium, & summum, sed fine carentem,*  
 O miris mirande modis ! ter maxime rerum !  
 Collustrat terras dum lumine Titan Eoo !

( secundo effido ) Mallo sonoris norma a VI  
 anni annuncij a B. egidi copiast a. e. m. Interpolation

Interpolation in Fox. Essay, P. 116.

Tu Psychephone

Hypocrisis esto, hoc sub Francisci pallio.  
Tu Thanate, Martyromastix re & nomine fies.

Alter'd thus,

Tu Psychephone!

Hypocrisis esto ; hoc sub Francisci pallio,  
Quo tutò tecti sese credunt emori.

Interpolation in Quintianus. Essay P. 117.

*Mic.* Cur huc procaci veneris cursu refer ?

Manere si quis in sua potest domo,  
Habitare numquam curet alienas domos.

*Luc.* Quis non, relicta Tartari nigri domo,  
Veniret ? Illic summa tenebrarum lues,  
Ubi pedor ingens redolet extremum fitum.  
Hic autem amoena regna, & dulcis quies ;  
Ubi feremus ridet æternum dies.  
Mutare facile \* est pondus immensum levi,  
Summos dolores maximisque gaudiis.

Interpolation in Beza. Essay, P. 119.

Stygemque testor, & profunda Tartari,  
Nisi impedit livor, & queis prosequor  
Odia supremum numen, atque hominum genus,  
Pietate motus hinc patris, & hinc filii,  
Possem parenti condolere & filio,  
Quasi exuissim omnem malitiam ex pectore.

Interpolation in Fletcher. Essay P. 124.

Nec tamen æternos oblii (absiste timere)  
Umquam animos, fessique ingentes panimus iras.

\* For *Facile*, the Word *Volupte* was substituted in the Essay.

Nec

Nec fas ; non sic deficimus, nec talia tecum  
Gessimus, in cœlos olim tua signa secuti.  
Est hic, est vitæ & magni contemptor Olympi,  
Quique oblatam animus lucis nunc respuat aulam,  
Et domiti tantum placeat cui Regia cœli.  
Ne dubita, numquam fractis hæc pectora, numquam  
Deficient animis : prius ille ingentia cœli  
Atria, desertosque æternæ lucis alumnos  
Destituens, Erebum admigret noctemque profundam,  
Et Stygiis mutet radiantia lumina flammis.  
*In promptu caussa est : Supereft invicta voluntas,*  
*Immortale odium, vindictæ & sœva cupido.*

Interpolations in Taubman. Essay P. 132.

Tune, ait, imperio regere omnia solus ; & una  
Filius iste tuus, qui se tibi subjicit ultro,  
Ac genibus minor ad terram prosternit, & offert  
Nescio quos toties animi servilis honores ?  
Et tamen æterni proles aeterna Jehovæ  
Audit ab ætherea luteaque propagine mundi.  
(*Scilicet hunc natum dixisti, cuncta regentem ;*  
*Cœlitibus regem cunctis, dominumque supremum*)  
Huic ego sim supplex ? ego ? quo præstantior alter  
Non agit in superis. Mihi jus dabit ille, suum qui  
Dat caput alterius sub jus & vincula legum ?  
Semideus reget iste polos ? reget avia terræ ?  
Me pressum leviore manu fortuna tenebit ?  
*Et cogar æternum dupli servire tyranno ?*  
Haud ita. Tu solus non polles fortibus aulis.  
Non ego sic cecidi, nec sic mea fata premuntur,  
Ut nequeam relevare caput, colloque superbum  
Excutere imperium. Mihi si mea dextra favebit,  
Audeo totius mihi jus promittere mundi.

Essay, P. 152.

*Throni, dominationes, principatus, virtutes, potestates,* is said to be a Line borrowed by MILTON from the Title-page of HEYWOOD's *Hierarchy of Angels*. But there are more Words in Heywood's Title; and, according to his own Arrangement of his Subjects, they should be read thus.—*Seraphim, Cherubim, Throni, Potestates, Angeli, Archangeli, Principatus, Dominationes.*

These are my Interpolations, minutely traced without any Arts of Evasion. Whether from the Passages that yet remain, any Reader will be convinced of my general Assertion, and allow, that Milton had Recourse for Assistance to any of the Authors whose names I have mentioned, I shall not now be very diligent to enquire, for I had no particular Pleasure in subverting the Reputation of Milton, which I had myself once endeavour'd to exalt;\* and of which, the Foundation had always remained untouched by me, had not my Credit and my Interest been blasted, or thought to be blasted, by the Shade which it cast from its boundless Elevation.

About ten Years ago, I published an Edition of Dr. JOHNSTON's Translation of the *Psalms*, and having procured from the

\* Virorum maximus... JOANNES MILTONUS.—Poeta celeberrimus---non Anglicæ modo, soli natalis, verum generis humani ornamentum---cujus eximius liber, Anglicanis versibus conscriptus, vulgo PARADISUS AMISSUS, immortalis illud ingenii monumentum, cum ipsa ferè æternitate perennaturum est opus!—Hujus memoriam Anglorum primus, post tantum, proh dolor! ab tanti excessu poetæ intervallum, statua eleganti in loco celeberrimo, cænobio Westmonasteriensi, posita, regum, principum, antistitum, illustriumque Angliae virorum cæmetatio, vir ornatissimus, Gulielmus Benson prosecutus est.

Postarum Scotorum Musæ Sacrae in præfatione, Edinb. 1739.

A Character, as high and honourable as ever was bestowed upon him by the most sanguine of his Admirers! And as this was my cool and sincere Opinion of that wonderful Man formerly, so I declare it to be the same still, and ever will be, notwithstanding all Appearances to the Contrary, occasioned merely by Passion and Resentment; which appear, however, by the Postscript to the Essay, to be so far from extending to the Posterity of Milton, that I recommended his only remaining Descendent, in the warmest terms, to the Publick.

General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, a Recommendation of its Use to the lower Classes of Grammar-Schools, into which I had begun to introduce it, though not without much Controversy and Opposition; I thought it likely, that I should, by annual Publications, improve my little Fortune, and be enabled to support myself in Freedom from the Miseries of Indigence. But Mr. *Pope*, in his Malevolence to Mr. *Benson*, who had distinguished himself by his Fondness for the same Version, destroyed all my Hopes by a Distich, in which he places *Johnston* in a contemptuous Comparison with the Author of *Paradise Lost*.†

From this Time, all my Praises of *Johnston* became ridiculous, and I was censured with great Freedom, for forcing upon the Schools, an author whom Mr. *Pope* had mentioned only as a Foil to a better Poet. On this Occasion, it was natural not to be pleased, and my Resentment seeking to discharge itself somewhere, was unhappily directed against *Milton*. I resolved to attack his Fame, and found some Passages in cursory Reading, which gave me Hopes of stigmatising him as a Plagiary. The farther I carried my Search, the more eager I grew for the Dis-

† On two unequal Crutches prop'd he \* came,  
MILTON's on this, on that ONE JOHNSTON's Name.  
Dunciad. Book IV.

\* *Benson*] This Man endeavoured to raise himself to Fame, by erecting Monuments, striking Coins, and procuring Translations of *Milton*; and afterwards by a great Passion for *Arthur Johnston*, a Scots Physician's Version of the Psalms, of which he printed many fine Editions. *Notes on the Dunciad*.

No fewer than six different Editions of that useful and valuable Book, two in Quarto, two in Octavo, and two in a lesser Form, now lie like Lumber in the Hand of Mr. *Vaillant*, Bookseller, the Effects of Mr. *Pope*'s ill-natured Criticism.

One of these Editions in Quarto, illustrated with an Interpretation and Notes, after the Manner of the Clasick Authors in *usum Delphini*, was by the worthy Editor, Anno 1749, inscribed to his Royal Highness Prince *George*, as a proper Book for his Instruction in Principles of Piety, as well as Knowledge of the Latin Tongue, when he should arrive at due Maturity of Age. To restore this Book to Credit was the Cause that induced me to engage in this disagreeable Controversy, rather than any Design to depreciate the just Reputation of *Milton*.

covery, and the more my Hypothesis was opposed, the more I was heated with Rage. The Consequence of my blind Passion, I need not relate ; it has by your Detection, become apparent to Mankind. Nor do I mention this Provocation as adequate to the Fury which I have shown, but as a Cause of Anger less shameful and reproachful than fractious Malice, personal Envy, or national Jealousy.

But for the Violation of Truth, I offer no Excuse, because I well know, that nothing can excuse it. Nor will I aggravate my Crime, by disingenuous Palliations. I confess it, I repent it, and resolve, that my first Offence shall be my last. More I cannot perform, and more therefore cannot be required. I intreat the Pardon of all Men, whom I have by any Means induced, to support, to countenance, or patronise my Frauds, of which I think myself oblig'd to declare, that not one of my Friends was conscious. I hope to deserve, by better Conduct and more useful Undertakings, that Patronage which I have obtained from the most illustrious and venerable Names by Misrepresentation and Delusion, and to appear hereafter in such a Character, as shall give you no Reason to regret that your Name is frequently mentioned with that of,

*Reverend Sir,*

*Dec. 20, 1750.*

*Your most humble Servant,*

**WILLIAM LAUDER**

**TESTI**

## TESTIMONIES concerning Mr. LAUDER.

Edinb. May 22, 1734.

**T**HES E are certifying, that Mr. William Lauder past his Coorse at this University, to the general Satisfaction of these Masters, under whom he studied. That he has apply'd himself particularly to the Study of Humanity\* ever since. That for several Years past, he has taught with Succeſs, Students in the Humanity Clafe, who were recommended to him by the Professor thereof. And laſtly, has taught that Clafe itſelf, during the Indiſpeſition, and ſince the Death of its late Professor: And therefore is, in our Opinion, a fit Person to teach Humanity in any School or College whatever.

J. Gowdie, S. S. T. P.

Matt. Craufurd, S. S. T. &amp; Hist. Ec.

Pr. Reg.

William Scott, P. P.

Robert Stuart, Ph. Nat. Pr.

Col. Drummond, L. G. &amp; P. Pr.

Col. Mac Laurin, Math. P. Edin.

Al. Bayne, J. P.

Charles Macky, Hist. P.

Alex. Morro, Anat. P.

William Dawson, L. H. P.

A LETTER from the Reverend Mr. Patrick Cuming, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, and Regius Professor of Church History in the University there, to the Rev. Mr. Blair, Rector of the Grammar-School at Dundee.

D. B.

UPON a publick Advertisement in the News Papers, of the Vacancy of a Master's Place in your School, Mr. William Lauder, a Friend of mine, proposes to ſet up for a Candidate, and goes over for that Purpose. He has long taught the Latin with great Approbation in this Place, and given ſuch

\* So the Latin Tongue is call'd in Scotland, from the Latin Phrase, *Clavis humaniorum Literarum*, the Clas or Form where that Language is taught.

Proofs.

Proofs of his Mastery in that Language, that the best Judges do upon all Occasions recommend him as one who is qualified in the best Manner. He has taught young Boys and young Gentlemen, with great Success; nor did I ever hear of any Complaint of him from either Parents or Children. I beg Leave to recommend him to you as my Friend; what Friendship you show him, I will look upon as a very great Act of Friendship to me, of which he and I will retain the most grateful Sense, if he is so happy as to be preferr'd. I persuade myself, you will find him ready at all Times to be advised by you, as I have found him. *Indeed if Justice had been done him, he should long ago have been advanced for his Merit.* I ever am,

D. B.

Your most Affectionate

Edin. Nov. 13, 1742.

Humble Servant,

PATRICK CUMING.

A LETTER from Mr. Mac-Laurin, late Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, to the Rev. Mr. George Blair, Rector of the Grammar-School at Dundee.

SIR,

**T**H O' unacquainted, I take the Liberty of giving you this Trouble, from the Desire I have always had to see Mr. Lauder provided in a Manner suited to his Talent. I know him to have made uncommon Progress in classical Learning, to have taught it with Success, and never heard there could be any Complaint against his Method of teaching. I am, indeed, a Stranger to the Reasons of his want of Success on former Occasions. But after conversing with him, I have Ground to hope, that he will be always advised by you, for whom he professes great Esteem, and will be useful under you. I am,

SIR,  
College of Edinburgh,  
Nov. 30, 1742.

Your most obedient humble Servant,

COLIN MAC-LAURIN.

*A LETTER from the Authors of the Universal History to Mr.  
LAUDER.*

Learned SIR,

London, August 12, 1741.

WHEN we so gladly took the first Opportunity of reviving the Memory and Merit of your incomparable *Johnston*, in the first Volume of our *Universal History*, our chief Aim was to excite some generous *Mecenas* to favour the World with a new Edition of a Poem which we had long since beheld with no small Concern, buried, as it were, by some unaccountable Fatality, into an almost total Oblivion; whilst others of that Kind, none of them superior, many vastly inferior to it, rode, unjustly, as we thought, triumphant over his silent Grave. And it is with great Satisfaction that we have seen our Endeavours so happily crown'd in the Edition you soon after gave of it at *Edinburgh*, in your learned and judicious Vindication of your excellent Author, and more particularly by the just Deference which your learned and pious Convocation has been pleased to pay to that admirable *Version*.

We have had since then, the Pleasure to see your worthy Example followed here, in the several beautiful Editions of the Honourable Mr. Auditor *Benson*, with his critical Notes upon the Work.

It was, indeed, the farthest from our Thoughts, to enter into the Merit of the Controversy between your two great Poets, *Johnston* and *Buchanan*; neither were we so partial to either as not to see, that each had their Shades as well as Lights; so that, if the Latter has been more happy in the Choice and Variety of his Metre, it is as plain, that he has given his poetic Genius such an unlimited Scope, as has in many Cases quite disfigured the peculiar and inimitable Beauty, Simplicity, and Energy of the Original, which the former, by a more close and judicious Version, has constantly, and surprisingly display'd. Something like this we ventur'd to hint in our Note upon these two noble Versions; to have said more, would have been inconsistent with our designed Brevity.

C

We

We have likewise since seen what your Opponent has writ in Praise of the one, and Derogation of the other, and think you have sufficiently confuted him, and with Respect to us, he has been so far from giving us any Cause to retract what we had formerly said, that it has administered an Occasion to us of vindicating it, as we have lately done by some critical Notes on your excellent *Johnston*, which we communicated soon after to Mr. *A. B.* who was pleas'd to give them a Place in his last Edition of him, and which we doubt not you have seen long ago. How they have been relished among you we know not, but with us they have been thought sufficient to prove what we have advanced, as well as to direct the attentive Reader, to discover new Instances of your Author's Exactness and Elegance, in every Page, if not almost in every Line.

We gratefully accept of the Books, and kind Complements you were pleased to transmit to us by Mr. *Strahan*, and had long since return'd you our Thanks, but for the many Avocations which the great Work you know us to be engaged in doth of Necessity bring upon us; obliging us, or some at least of our Society, to make from Time to Time an Excursion to one or other of our two learned Universities, and consulting them upon the best Method of carrying on this Work to the greatest Advantage to the Public. This has been some considerable Part of our Employment for these twelve Months past; and we flatter ourselves, that we have, with their Assistance and Approbation, made such considerable Improvements on our original Plan, as will scarcely fail of being acceptable to the learned World. They will shortly appear in print, to convince the World that we have not been idle, tho' this Sixth Volume is like to appear somewhat later in the Year than was usual with our former ones. We shall take the Liberty to transmit some Copies of our new Plan to you as soon as they are printed. All we have left to wish, with respect to your excellent Countryman and his Version is, that it may always meet with such powerful and impartial Advocates, and that it may be as much esteemed by all candid Judges, as it is by, *Learned SIR,*

*Your sincere Well-wishers and humble Servants,*

*The A U T H O R S of the Universal History.*

A LETTER from the Learned Mr. ROBERT AINSWORTH, Author of the Latin and English Dictionary, to Mr. LAUDER.

Learned and worthy SIR,

THESE wait on you to thank you for the Honour you have done a Person, equally unknown as undeserving, in your valuable Present, which I did not receive till several Weeks after it was sent: And since I received it, my Eyes have been so bad, and my Hand so unstable, that I have been forced to defer my Duty, as desirous to thank you with my own Hand. I congratulate to your Nation the just Honour ascribed to it by its Neighbours and more distant Countries, in having bred two such excellent Poets as your Buchanan and Johnston, whom to name is to commend; but am concerned for their Honour at home, who being committed together, seem to me both to suffer a Diminution, whilst Justice is done to neither. But at the same Time I highly approve your Nation's Piety in bringing into your Schools sacred instead of profane Poesy, and heartily wish that ours, and all Christian Governments, would follow your Example herein. If a Mixture of *Utile Ducti* be the best Composition in Poetry, (which is too evident to need the Judgment of the nicest Critic in the Art) surely the *Utile* so transcendently excels in the sacred Hymns, that a Christian must deny his Name that doth not acknowledge it: And if the *Dulce* seem not equally to excel, it must be from a vitiated Taste of those who read them in the Original, and in others at Second-Hand from Translations. For the Manner of writing in the East and West are widely distant, and which to a Paraphrast must render his Task exceeding difficult, as requiring a perfect Knowledge in two Languages, wherein the Idioms and Graces of Speech, caused by the Diversity of their Religion, Laws, Customs, &c. are as remote as the Inhabitants, wherein notwithstanding your Poets have succeeded to Admiration.

Your main Contest seems to me, when stript of Persons, whether the Easy or Sublime in Poesy be preferable; if so,

*Non opis est nostra tantam componere litem:*

C 2

nor

nor think I it in your Case material to be decided. Both these have their particular Excellencies and Graces, and Youth ought to be taught wherein (which the Matter ought chiefly to determine) the one hath place, and where the other. Now since the Hymns of *David*, *Moses*, and other divine Poets intermixt with them, (infinitely excelling those of *Callimachus*, *Alcaeus*, *Sappho*, *Anacreon*, and all others) abound in both these Virtues, and both your Poets are acknowledged to be very happy in paraphrasing them, it is my Opinion both of them, without giving the least Preference to either, should be read alternately in your Schools, as the Tutor shall direct. Pardon, learned Sir, this Scribble to my Age and Weakness, both which are very great, and command me wherein I may serve you, as,

Learned SIR,

Your obliged, thankful, and obedient Servant,

Spitalfields, Sept. 1741. ROBERT AINSWORTH.

A LETTER from the Authors of the Universal History to Mr. Auditor BENSON.

SIR,

IT is with no small Pleasure that we see Dr. Johnston's Translation of the Psalms revived in so elegant a Manner, and adorned with such a just and learned Display of its inimitable Beauties. As we flatter ourselves that the Character we gave it in our first Volume of the *Universal History*, did in some Measure contribute to it, we hope, that in Justice to that great Poet, you will permit us to cast the following Mites into your Treasury of critical Notes on his noble Version. We always thought the Psalm by far this Author's due, as upon many other Accounts, so especially for two Excellencies hitherto not taken notice of by any Critic, that we know of, and which we beg Leave to transmit to you, and if you think fit, by you to the Public, in the following Observations.

We beg Leave to subscribe ourselves,

SIR, &c.

The Authors of the UNIVERSAL HISTORY.  
Dr.

*Dr. Isaac Watts, D. D. in his late Book, entitled, The Improvement of the Mind, Lond. 1741, p. 114.*

**U**PON the whole Survey of Things, it is my Opinion, that for almost all Boys who learn this Tongue [the Latin], it would be much safer to be taught *Latin Poesy* (as soon, and as far as they can need it) from those excellent Translations of *David's Psalms*, which are given us by *Buchanan* in the various Measures of *Horace*; and the lower Classes had better read Dr. *Johnston's* Translation of those Psalms, another elegant Writer of the Scots Nation, instead of *Ovid's Epistles*; for he has turned the same Psalms, perhaps with greater Elegancy, into Elegiac Verse, whereof the learned *W. Benson*, Esq; has lately publish'd a new Edition, and I hear that these Psalms are honour'd with an encreasing Use in the Schools of *Holland* and *Scotland*. A Stanza, or a Couplet of those Writers would now and then stick upon the Minds of Youth, and would furnish them infinitely better with pious and moral Thoughts, and do something towards making them good Men and Christians.

*An Act of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, recommending Dr. Arthur Johnston's Latin Paraphrase of the Psalms of David, &c.*

At Edinburgh, 13th of November, 1740. post meridiem.

**A**PETITION having been presented to the late General Assembly, by Mr. William Lauder, Teacher of Humanity in Edinburgh, craving, That Dr. Arthur Johnston's Latin Paraphrase on the Psalms of David, and Mr. Robert Boyd of Trochbrig his *Hecatomb Christiana*, may be recommended to be taught in all Grammar-schools; and the Assembly having appointed a Committee of their Number to take the Desire of the foresaid Petition into their Consideration, and report to the Commission: The said Committee offered their Opinion, that the Commission should grant the Desire of the said Petition, and recommend the said Dr. Johnston's Paraphrase to be taught in the lower Classes of the Schools, and Mr. George Buchanan's Paraphrase on the Psalms, together with Mr. Robert Boyd of Trochbrig's *Hecatomb Christiana*.

*Christiana* in the higher Classes of Schools, and Humanity-Classes in Universities. THE COMMISSION having heard the said Report, unanimously approved thereof, and did, and hereby do recommend accordingly. Extracted by

William Grant, \* Cl. Ecl. Sc.

*A LETTER from the Learned Mr. Abraham Gronovius, Secretary to the University of Leyden, to Mr. Lauder, concerning the Adamus Exsul of Grotius.*

*Clarissimo Viro, Wilhelmo Laudero, Abramam Gronovius, S. P. D.*

POstquam binæ literæ tuæ ad me perlatæ fuerunt, duas editiones carminum *H. Grotii*, viri vere summi, excussi; verū ab utraque Tragœdiā, quam *Adamum Exsulem* inscripsit & πάντα, abesse deprehendi; neque ullum ejusdem exemplar, quamvis tres+ editiones exstante adnotaveram, ullibi offendere potui, adeo ut spe, quam vorabam desiderio Tuo satisfaciendi, me prorsus excidisse existimarem.

Verū nupetrime fortè contigit, ut primam *Tragœdiæ Grotianæ* editionem, *Hagæ*, An. 1601. publicatam, beneficio amicissimi mihi Viri nactus fuerim, ejusque decem priores paginas, quibus præter chorū actus primus comprehenditur, a Jacobo meo, optimæ spei adolescentे, transcriptas nunc ad Te mitto. Vale vir Doctissime, meque ut facis amare perge. Dabam Lugd. Bat. A. D. iv. Eid. A. D. MDCCXLVI.

*A Second LETTER from the same Gentleman to Mr. Lauder, on the same Subject.*

*Clarissime atque Eruditissime Vir!*

POstequam tandem Jacobus meus residuum partem, quam desiderabas, *Tragœdiæ Grotianæ* transcriperat, ut eā diutius careres, committere nolui: quod autem citius illam ad finem

\* This honourable Gentleman is now his Majesty's Advocate for Scotland.

+ Though Gronovius here mentions only three Editions of this noble and curious Performance, the *Adamus Exsul of Grotius*; yet it appears from the Catalogue of his Works, that no fewer than four have been printed, two in Quarto, and two In Octavo, in the Years 1601, 1608, and 1635; two having been made, one in Quarto, the other in Octavo, Anne 1601.

perducere non potuerit, obstitserunt variae occupationes, quibus districtus fuit. Nam præter scholastica studia, quibus strenue incubuit, ipsi componenda erat Oratio, qua rudimenta linguae Græcae Latinæque deponeret, eamque, quod vehementer laetor, venustè, & quidem stilo ligato, composuit, & in magna auditorum corona pronuntiavit. Quod autem ad exemplar ipsum, quo *Adamus Exsul* comprehenditur, spectat, id lubens, si meum foret ad te perferri curarem, verum illud a Clarissimo Possessore tanti estimatur, ut persuasum habeam me istud minimè ab ipso imputaturum : & sane sacra carmina *Grotii* adeo raro obvia sunt, ut eorundem exemplar apud ipsos Remonstrantium Ecclesiastas frustra quæsiverim.

Opus ipsum inscriptum est HENRICO BORBONIO, PRINCIPI CONDÆO ; & forma libri est in quarto, ut nullo pacto literis includi possit. Ceterum, pro splendidissima & Magnæ Britanniæ Principe, cui merito dicata est, digna Editione Psalmorum, ex Versione metrica omnium ferè Poëtarum Principis *THONSTONI* maximas tibi grates habet agitque Jacobus. Utinam Illustrissimus *Benson* in usum Serenissimi Principis, atque ingeniiorum in altiora surgentium, eadem formâ, iisdemque typis exarari juberet divinos illos Ciceronis de Officiis libros, dignos sane, quos diurnâ nocturnâque manu versaret Princeps, a quo aliquando Britannici regni majestas & populi salus pendebunt ! Interim tibi, eruditissime Vir, atque etiam politissimo D. *Caveo*, pro muneribus literariis, quæ per nobilissimum *Lawsonum* \* ad me curâstis, magno opere me obstrictum agnosco, eademque summa cum voluptate a me perlecta sunt.

Filius meus te plurimum salutat.

Vale Doctissime vir, meisque verbis D. *Caveum* saluta, atque amare perge,

Tuum,

Dabam Leidis, A. D. xiv. Kal.  
Majas, A. D. M DCCXLVII.

ABRAHAMUM GRONOVIUM.

\* The Person here meant was the learned and worthy Dr. *Isaac Lawson*, late Physician to the English Army in Flanders ; by whom Mr. Gronovius did me the Honour to transmit to me two or three Acts of the *Adamus Exsul* of *Grotius*, transcrib'd by his son Mr. *James*. The Truth of this Particular consists perfectly well with the Knowledge of the Doctor's Brother, *John Lawson*, Esq; Counsellor at Law ; who also had the same Thing lately confirm'd to him by Mr. Gronovius himself in Holland.

## P O S T - S C R I P T.

**A**ND now my Character is plac'd above all Suspicion of Fraud by authentick Documents, I'll make bold at last to pull off the Mask, and declare sincerely the true Motive that induc'd me to interpolate a few Lines into some of the Authors quoted by me in my Essay on *Milton*, which was this: Knowing the Prepossession in Favour of *Milton*, how deeply it was rooted in many, I was willing to make Trial, if the partial Admirers of that Author would admit a Translation of his own Words to pass for his Sense, or exhibite his Meaning; which I thought they would not: Nor was I mistaken in my Conjecture, forasmuch as several Gentlemen, seemingly Persons of Judgment and Learning, assur'd me, they humbly conceiv'd I had not prov'd my Point, and that *Milton* might have written as he has done, supposing he had never seen these Authors, or they had never existed. Such is the Force of Prejudice! This exactly confirms the judicious Observation of the excellent Moralist and Poet;

*Provo favore lati mortales solent.*

*Et pro iudicio dum stant erroris ju-*

*Ad paenitendum rebus manifestis agi.*

For had I design'd (as the Vindicator of *Milton* supposes) to impose a Trick on the Publick, and procure Credit to my Assertions by an Imposture, I would never have drawn Lines from *Hog's* Translation of *Milton*, a Book common at every Sale, I had almost said at every Stall, nor ascrib'd them to Authors so easily attain'd: I would have gone another Way to work, by translating forty or fifty Lines, and assigning them to an Author, whose Works possibly might not be found till the World expire at the general Conflagration. My imposing therefore on the Publick in General, instead of a few obstinate Persons (for whose Sake alone the Stratagem was design'd) is the only Thing culpable in my Conduct, for which again I most humbly ask Pardon: And that this, and this only was, as no other could be, my Design, no one I think can doubt, from the Account I have just now given; and whether that was so criminal, as it has been represented, I shall leave every impartial Mind to determine.

E. J. N. I. S.

~~ERRATUM.~~ In Page 13, Line 10. in the Notes for 1749 read 1747

11:7:19